

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	The Bulgarian Meat and Tanning Industries	DATE DISTR.	16 February 1953
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE: [REDACTED]

1. Bulgaria produces approximately 2,000 lamb skins per year for fur, which represents about 75 percent of the total number of lambs slaughtered. The skins are exported as semi-finished products to Poland, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany, and the Soviet Union. The USSR receives small quantities of only good quality skins, while the others receive larger quantities of all types.
2. The two most important cities which have slaughterhouses and refrigeration plants are Sofia, where approximately 500,000 lambs per year are slaughtered, and Plovdiv, where approximately 200,000 lambs are slaughtered every year.
3. Lambs are slaughtered when they reach a weight of five to 10 kilograms; slaughtering of animals of less than five kilograms is prohibited. Sheep weighing more than 10 kilograms are slaughtered at certain seasons only, mostly in the fall.
4. Lambs are used for local consumption and for the Army; the remainder is processed for stockpiling, since it is not in demand by the countries of the Eastern Bloc. Beef and pork are exported to the Eastern Bloc, principally to Czechoslovakia and the USSR.
5. The following are the largest raw hide processing establishments in Bulgaria:
 - a. Gabrovo, which also has the largest cattle hide tannery;
 - b. Lovech, which has a tannery school attached to the factory;
 - c. Near the Iskŭr railroad station at Sofia, a factory employing about 200 workers; and
 - d. The Michovaya Factory in the Kazichene district of Sofia, employs about 150 workers; the management is entirely Soviet, and the sole product is Astrakhan furs which are exported to the USSR; the manager is I. Sualenkov; the enterprise receives its raw materials from Mesotsentrala, the organization which controls slaughtering.

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